

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009

HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA

200 MIDDLE ROAD

EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

I. Call to Order

The first June meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m.

Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Susan Records, Robert Durant, Mary Ellen Winters, and Deidre Gifford, as Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon Mr. Martin was absent.

II. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. Public Comments

Carla Prebe, Sheep Farm Drive, feels that if the CPT program is re-evaluated, all the programs should be re-evaluated. Monica Mason, Lenihan Lane, stated that academically gifted children need to reach their full potential and CPT provides the environment for them.

Mary Gao and two students also spoke in favor of the CPT program.

Jack Condon, Hickory Drive, stated that before administrators are

evaluated, the Committee should get input from parents at each school. Sean Finney, Chestnut Drive, stated that before the Committee meets on the renewal of administrator's contracts, they should speak to teachers and parents first because people feel they are not being heard.

Joanne Leach wondered what happened to the sound system because the audience can't hear what is being said at the meetings.

IV. Approval of Minutes- May 19, 2009

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting with some minor changes. The motion passed with Mrs. Gifford abstaining.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

a. The following Cole Robotics students were recognized for participating in the Robotics Competition at URI. The teams finished 5th and 7th out of 15 teams: Alex Deneault, Antoine Emery, Will Karabots, Bennett Lallo, Chris Luo, Thomas Nocera and Jesse Zhan

b. Presentation by East Greenwich High School Senior, Charissa DiNobile, concerning the semester she spent in France. This item was tabled.

c. Liam Doyle, East Greenwich High School senior, was recognized for receiving his pilot's license. He and his family were present at the meeting.

VI. Action Items

a. Social Studies Curriculum K-6

Linda Newman, Social Studies Consultant, presented this curriculum to the School Committee for review and approval and to familiarize

them with the process. She noted that this update process was started in 1998, and the middle school curriculum was totally restructured. Mrs. Newman also noted that three companies were reviewed for the textbook pilot. She added that K-12 Mathematics is coming out now and is the best yet. Mr. Meyers stated that Mrs. Newman does an outstanding job in the curriculum area, and East Greenwich is in good shape. Mrs. Newman stated the important part is articulation and everyone should have some understanding of what the curriculum means. Ms. Hayes noted that an updated Library/Media curriculum is due. Mr. Durant made a motion which

354

was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Social Studies Curriculum. The motion passed unanimously.

b. FY 2010 Budget final allocations

Mrs. Crawford stated that we are hoping to use stabilization funds for this year for certain programs. She noted that the State will offset the funds dollar for dollar by a reduction in State Aid. We will be able to use the stabilization money for 2008-2009 but it has to flow to local agencies and our State Aid will be reduced. If we don't spend the money we need to give it back. In the 2009-2010 school year, this may not be the case. The Committee discussed the CPT Program before they discussed the rest of the budget. Mrs. Gifford stated that CPT always seems to be put on the list of cuts. Mr. Durant feels that the program has merit but the problem based learning solutions could be applied to every student. He feels it is not a matter of students being bored, but the program is a change of pace for them.

Mrs. Gifford feels that if we eliminate funds for the program for all students we won't have funds in the future. She feels kids have needs that are not met in every classroom, and it is very difficult to provide educational experiences for a broad spectrum of children. Mr. Durant feels that \$85,000 is a lot of money for 57 kids whereas middle school sports serves 67% of kids. Mrs. Meyers stated that we have a professional development grant for K-12 which devotes more to training for teachers. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the question is whether we have the money to support the program. Mrs. Guliano stated that the concern is a need to provide scaffolding to these kids. Mr. Meyers feels we should set aside funds to evaluate the existing program and look at another program. Mrs. Guliano asked about having a part-time person in each school to monitor the CPT students. Mr. Durant stated that an option is not to have it for 4th graders for next year. Mrs. Garcia, the current CPT teacher, spoke about the screening process for the program. Donna Hayes, EGEA co-president, stated that if this position changes to half time you may not have the same teacher. Judi Cavanaugh, EGEA co-president, noted that the CPT Program is fabulous but we have a lot of gifted students in this community and the program should go into all classrooms to give more kids this opportunity. The Committee discussed the proposed cuts which include cuts to middle and high school sports. Mr. Varrecchione, Athletic Director, spoke about his cuts, noting that all existing teams will be kept but we will eliminate non-league contests that we paid for in the past. He has looked into consolidating transportation with North Kingstown. Mr. Varrecchione

feels that we may be able to increase revenue by gate receipts if the fields open on time. Mrs. Guliano noted that this is the first time we have had to cut athletics for kids. It was noted that when we get the concession stand built, there is a potential to have extra money. Further discussion on the CPT Program was conducted and the following voted were recorded: Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to leave in \$85,000 and use \$5000 for a study of the CPT Program. The motion did not pass with an abstention by Mrs. Records, a yes vote by Mrs. Gifford, and no votes by Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Palumbo Mrs. Winters, and Mr. Durant. Mrs. Palumbo then made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to eliminate the CPT Program as it stands today, keep \$5,000 for a study which will be used for every student in the district and re-design the program which will incorporate all children. Mrs. Palumbo and Mr. Durant voted yes, and Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Records and Mrs. Gifford voted no. The motion didn't pass. Mrs. Palumbo then made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to keep the CPT teacher for a 0.4 position at a cost of \$35,000 plus \$5,000 for a study contingent upon finding money before the Financial Town Meeting. The vote was Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Durant yes, Mrs. Palumbo abstained, and Mrs. Records, Mrs. Gifford and Mrs. Winters voted no. The motion didn't pass. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant that the FY 2010 budget adopted by the East Greenwich School Committee on

March 17, 2009 be amended by a reduction of \$677,700 to be taken from the areas listed in Mr. Meyers' memo on reductions. The vote was Mrs. Records, Mr. Durant and Mrs. Palumbo yes and Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Gifford voting no. The motion failed. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant that we add \$5,000 to the amount of cuts to be made by the schools line item (to be used for the CPT study) with the new amount of \$42,700; change the amount to be cut from CPT by \$5000 making that cut \$80,000. The vote was Mrs. Records, Mr. Durant and Mrs. Palumbo yes, Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Gifford voting no and Mrs. Guliano abstaining. The motion passed.

The rest of the budget cuts not listed above which were made by Mr. Meyers are: Three paraprofessionals, Textbooks (Social Studies and books for the new Spelling Program,) FM Systems Equipment, Retirees, Transportation, Substitute Teachers, Liability Premiums, Telecommunications, and Special Education Transportation. The final vote is listed in bold above.

c. Bus Contract

Mrs. Crawford stated that the current contract with First Student expires on 8-31-09. Salter Transportation from the north shore of Massachusetts was the lowest bidder. It was noted that Exeter/West Greenwich awarded Salter the bid for their bus transportation. Our contract with them is for three years for regular education transportation. The State of RI will do all the special education transportation in and out of district. Greg Stinson from Salter stated that he left Laidlaw Transportation and went with Salter. He stated he

is a resident of Rhode Island. They have a new fleet and are looking into a local maintenance facility. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to award the bid for in-district regular education to Salter Transportation in the amount of \$3,597,800. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Recalls of Teachers: Collective Bargaining Agreement, Section 7-5

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the recall of Kimberly Bose, Amy Bell, Debra Mullen, Christine Marcotte, Ellen Garcia, Cynthia Kendall and Nathan Potter. Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to amend the previous motion to include Jillian Bagley. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Administrator's Contracts

Mrs. Records would like the administrators to come before the Committee and have

discussions on their contracts. We need to give them notice that we will discuss their performance and renewal. It was felt that the School Committee has the right to review the administrators' personnel files but not evaluations. Mr. Meyers disagrees and stated it is his responsibility to evaluate administrators. He feels it is not the School Committee's role to review personnel records of employees.

f. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the out-

of-state Field Trip to Lake Compounce in Bristol, CT for Cole Middle School students on June 12, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion

a. CPT Program (see above)

b. Insurance -Trust Presentation

Two representatives of the RI Interlocal Trust spoke about their company. They are a not-for-profit company owned by us with a Board of Trustees. They noted that thirty-three municipalities participate in the Trust, and they only write business in RI. The representatives stated that \$500,000 of any loss is paid from the collective funds of

356

participating members and the amount above that is paid from reinsurers. The same situation applies for Workers' Compensation. It was noted that a school superintendent developed the program and they also have certified playground inspections and a safety outreach for new employees. If we go with this Trust, they need two months notice of the intention to withdraw and there will be a fee upon leaving. The Trust will need to see our losses before they determine our premium. Mr. Durant stated that he has dealt with the Trust and they do fine work.

c. Building Committee Report- Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to table this item.

d. Fields Committee Report

Ernie DiSaia and Jeff Hansen from Caito Corporation were present at the meeting to speak about the irrigation issues. It was noted that Caito Corporation was hired in 2006 and a submission was made to DEM for the full fields' project. That included the McHale Property. It

was noted that DEM notified the fields committee that they couldn't make a preliminary determination and they required an application to alter. DEM also wanted two phases. Mr. DiSaia noted that at the February meeting concerns were voiced with our irrigation proposal. The well was tested but never had a pump. DEM also had concerns because the Hunt River Aquifer is extremely stressed. There was no way DEM could permit use of that well in the summer for us. Using the existing well from October to May was discussed. Mary Ellen Winters stated that she wanted the fields committee to pursue irrigation with Kent County Water. It was noted that the cost from Kent County Water will be from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year. Mr. Meyers has a concern about why we spent so much time around the irrigation pond. Mr. Hansen stated that he didn't want to depend on Kent County Water and they wanted to be self-sufficient. He also noted that DEM encouraged the committee to go the route of the irrigation pond because the aquifer would be stressed. He added there was no discussion with Kent County Water originally. Mrs. Winters stated that there was the issue of the water basin close to River Farm and maybe Meadowbrook School. She noted the whole purpose of the bond was to get more fields. Mrs. Guliano stated that the Town Council is not happy that we are not going to develop McHale. Mr. Meyers noted that DEM didn't say we couldn't proceed with Phase I, we just couldn't encroach on wetlands. Mr. Meyers stated that we needed to move the project along even though some people feel we should have waited for DEM approval. Mrs. Guliano wants to make sure the project has day to day oversight. She stated

that Joe Duarte, the Town Building Official, should be involved and work with Mr. DiSaia. Mrs. Gifford would like Mr. Duarte to communicate with the School Committee as well. Mr. Meyers feels that the weekly fields' construction meeting should include Mr. DiSaia, Mr. Hansen Mr. Duarte and Mrs. Winters. The focus should be on the Kent County application first.

e. Superintendent Search Process

Mrs. Guliano stated that they are going through the process and evaluating candidates. She noted there will be an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates. She is not ruling out an interim. It was noted that Mr. Meyers is collecting information for the transition plan, and creating a list of contact people in the community.

f. Superintendent Transition Plan- Mr. Meyers is working on this plan.

g. UCOA Update

Wendy Schmidle was present at the meeting and noted that some changes were made. They are scheduling the conversion to the first week in August. She added that this is a work in progress. It was noted that RIDE is providing training to auditors now. Mrs. Schmidle will keep us posted.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

357

IX. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee, being

polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 11:45p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for

Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary